

ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE C.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P. O. Box 2604

Washington, D. C. 20013

MHQ-6015

31 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: FBIS Overseas Personnel

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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SUBJECT: More on Reston Move

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1. [REDACTED] chairs an internal FBIS committee on space which is currently working through detailed requirements. The plan is based on projected T/O through FY 87. Although that represents little increase over our current T/O, at least we will not begin short of space. The Directorate steering group mentioned in Arthur's message to you will have a first meeting next week. I believe useful information will develop quickly after that.

2. One initial reaction to the move decision was a petition to DDS&T asking reconsideration based on a number of impacts on FBIS and its personnel. I have attached his response which I ask that you make available to all staff personnel.

3. I expect that we will have a firm plan and schedule by the time of the BCC. All information will be pouched to you as it becomes available.

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Attachment

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DDS&T-061-86

27 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: All FBIS Employees

THROUGH: Director, FBIS

FROM: R. E. Hineman
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: FBIS Move to Reston

REFERENCE: 10 January Memorandum From 97 FBIS Employees,
Subject: Selection of Reston Site for FBIS

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1. I read with great interest the 10 January memorandum signed by [redacted] FBIS employees urging reconsideration of the decision to move FBIS to Reston. The following will explain the rationale for the relocation decision and address concerns expressed in the 10 January memorandum.

2. When I became Deputy Director for Science and Technology, one of my goals was to see all Directorate Offices located at one site. The objective was to improve Directorate cohesion and eliminate some of the parochial barriers that tend to evolve among offices with diverse businesses. In short, I wanted a more efficient Directorate, including greater interaction among Offices.

3. However, as time passed it became clear that the goal of having all [redacted] DS&T Offices together was not possible. [redacted]

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4. The decision to move to Reston was based on cost, security, and management considerations. The need was urgent in FBIS' case because of impending modernization and immediate space requirements. In January 1985 I encouraged [redacted] to work with the Office of Logistics to find an acceptable site. The Vienna Metro proposal was attractive and I was pleased to recommend this alternative in Agency management discussions on

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SUBJECT: FBIS Move to Reston

the larger space question. Other locations in the Vienna area were also considered. However, by November 1985, the larger decision, which covers 3/4 of a million square feet of office space, had to be made. Reston was chosen for the reasons noted above.

5. The concerns expressed in the 10 January memorandum are, for many individuals, valid and indeed serious. From a broader perspective, however, I have reservations about some of the memorandum's general conclusions. It is from this perspective that I must view things.

6. I fully expect FBIS to benefit as an organization from the Reston move. Some adjustments might be necessary, particularly by those who must maintain frequent personal contacts with key consumers, but I am not convinced the outstanding media reporting and analysis for which FBIS is known will suffer. Travel time from the Reston site to Headquarters is approximately 20 minutes, about the time it takes to travel from Key Building to Headquarters. Of course, travel time to Washington is greater, but I would not expect the resulting obstacles to hinder an FBIS professional to the extent that these obstacles create a "severely detrimental impact on the basic mission of producing high-quality analysis and making informed selection of materials for translation and publication." I do remember the SOVA move cited in the 10 January memorandum. Ironically, however, there was great consternation within SOVA when the decision was made to move back to Headquarters.

7. The Reston move's effect on recruitment and EEO considerations is debatable. Reston offers some distinct advantages as a place in which to work and live. Nevertheless, I fully realize the inconvenience this move will cause some people in commuting cost and time. This factor was certainly considered; yet, based on the FBIS survey conducted last year on employee transportation use, public transportation was found not to be a critical factor for most employees. Still, we will make every effort to accommodate those people who find it impossible to make the move.

8. I do not want to downplay the problems many of you face in moving your work place to Reston. Change is always difficult. The Reston move clearly is not ideal for everyone, but I did not have the time to get everyone's input. After a difficult transition period, I am confident the Directorate will become more effective than it is today. With your support,

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I am also confident FBIS will come through with no reduction in productivity or efficiency. FBIS employees have a traditional dedication that is respected and admired throughout the intelligence and foreign affairs communities. I am sure this dedication will prevail. For right now, every effort is being made toward an early definition of personnel and support factors to help ease your individual decisions. For my part, I will ensure that the Agency takes whatever steps necessary to assist you.

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R. E. Hineman

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